

First Real Balloon Invented in 1782 By Two Frenchmen

Brothers Got Idea by Watching
Smoke Curl Upward
From Fire; Then Experimented
With Paper Bag

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The adventures of three naval aviators and the international interest in their safe return from the frozen Canadian north recall numerous historic attempts of man to fulfill for himself on earth the ages-old feeling that he would have wings some day," says a bulletin from the headquarters of the National Geographic Society in Washington.

"These American birdmen who got their noses and ears tipped by the cold performed no such feat as did Daedalus, who, some thousands of years ago in the age of myths, flew near enough to the sun to melt the wax on his wings. Daedalus's experiment and the attempted flight of a certain monk called Eilmerus, who, John Wilkins, one of the founders of the Royal Society of England, tells us, flew for a distance of more than an eighth of a mile from a town in Spain, are sufficient evidence, however, to accord the aviation the palm for being the older of the flying arts.

"Ballooning, though less romantic in its appeal and decidedly more commonplace in its practice, has long been a favorite pastime of the people of all ages, may be said to have been practiced to-day, as its progress has been steadily on the upgrade since Roger Bacon, back in the thirteenth century, expounded the theory that a hollow globe of very thin metal, filled with ethereal air or liquid fire, would float upward on the atmosphere.

"From that day priests, philosophers and scientists put forward the idea that somewhere there could be found a way to rise and float in the upper atmosphere. Almost every conceivable thing was suggested for filling these balloons. One of the most fanciful, according to their suppositions, was shed by the stars during the night and would be drawn back to heaven in the day. It was the idea of a man who, as the result of watching the clouds the brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier, of Annonay, France, in 1782, invented the first real balloon. They tested that if the vapor of the clouds could be suspended in the upper air a large bag filled with such a vapor might rise and drift about as the clouds do.

"An interesting story is told about the Montgolfier brothers originating the idea. They were watching the smoke wreaths curl upward from their fire when one of them began to wonder if the clouds could not carry other things up with it too. In the enthusiasm of the moment they made a small fire on a little tin tray and held a large paper bag over the flames. As the smoke filled the bag it billowed up and tried to rise. A neighbor, a widow, seeing the smoke issuing from their window and fearing that the house was on fire, went rushing in to put out the fire. She suggested that they attach the tray to the bag and the immediate result was that the bag rose to the ceiling.

"After several private try-outs, they announced a public trial of a balloon on June 5, 1783, and many spectators gathered to see this sphere, 105 feet in circumference, which the inventors inflated with the hot air from burning straw, rise high in the air and float off for about one and a half miles. The brothers believed for quite a while that they had hit upon some peculiar way of flying, but they had not. The balloon, which had been inflated with hot air, had not risen until later that their wonder had risen only because of the lightness of heated air. But they made the balloon a reality.

"From this time forward the physicists in France and elsewhere took seriously this infant invention which had suddenly appeared in their midst. Subscriptions were taken up to further the project, the Roberts brothers constructed a balloon, the noted scientist, Charles, conceived the idea of filling the balloon with hydrogen for the ascent was set. The crowd that gathered was great and curious and so interfered with the operations that the balloon had to be moved to another place, but when it was moved to the outdoors, learned its whereabouts and were there to see the performance. The sphere rose 3,000 feet in the air amid the rain, when the balloon burst, but the men were not hurt. To the wild enthusiasm of the spectators.

"In 1783 Joseph Montgolfier repeated his experiment before the king, queen and court at Versailles. The first flying creature to take a balloon trip went up on that day. A sheep, a duck and a cock soared majestically into the air with the ornate balloon and descended after eight minutes about two miles away. The only injury suffered by any of them was a kick on the wing which the sheep gave the cock. Later on in that same year the gallant pair, who had been flying in the balloon, made the first trip taken by persons in a free fire-balloon. From that time 'sounding' the skies became a science. Lunardi started great balloon flights in his day. It is said that when he soared into vision the king ended a conference with his ministers and a court of justice acquitted a criminal in order that all persons present might watch him.

"The R-34, when it traveled 3,130 miles in a little more than 108 hours, finally put a crimp into world records of speed and distance. The time made, no balloon voyage has yet been made of a length comparable to the breadth of the Atlantic. Only two balloons exceeding one thousand miles have been on record—those of John Wise, from New York to Hender, New York, and of Count Henry de la Vaux from Paris to Korostoff in Russia.

"Among the notable flights made in balloons the daring attempt of Salomon Andre and two companions in 1875 to reach the North Pole sought an honored place. They left Spitzbergen at a point 600 miles from the Pole. But the expedition failed, the balloons being destroyed by the cold. The explorers later than that are messages picked up in two floating buoys."

\$50,000 Hinges on Time Castle Clock Struck 12

Count Molke's Heirs Contend
He Died One Minute Before
Tax Law Became Effective

LONDON, Feb. 19.—What time was it when the clock struck twelve? Fifty thousand dollars depend on the answer to this question, which is the subject of a suit in the Eastern Circuit Court at Copenhagen, Denmark, writes the Daily Express correspondent.

The clock in question is in the tower of Lystrup Castle, the seat of one of Denmark's greatest landlords, the late Count Molke, a life member of the ancient House of Lords.

December 19-20, 1918, a few seconds after the castle clock struck twelve. The Danish Parliament recently approved a new and increased scale of death duties, applicable to the estates of all persons who died after midnight on December 19-20.

It is contended by the count's heirs that the castle clock was fast and struck a minute too soon. The count, they say, died on December 19, 1918, and therefore his estate is exempt from the increase in the death duties.

Lincoln's Old Pew Given to Chicago Historical Society

Companion Piece to Rough
Church Bench Is Bleak
Office Chair Emancipator
Used When Studying Law

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Abraham Lincoln is shown again as one of the plain people at the Chicago Historical Society.

To its already fine Lincoln collection the society has added for the first time some remarkable bits of Lincoln's environment that give glimpses of his life.

Most illuminating perhaps among these is the pew that Lincoln occupied in the Presbyterian Church at Springfield before he left the Illinois capital to go to the White House. The rough bench looks as if it might have been made from the rails that he split in youth. No plainer, commoner, more substantial bench could be built for a church.

The pew probably never was painted. At any rate, it shows no sign of paint. But, it stands like a product of the carpenter that had gone straight to the church. It is a bench that, without regard to looks, could be doing its duty for several more half centuries.

Near by is a chair that Lincoln used while he was reading law. It is one of those bleak office chairs of long ago, a sure enough companion piece to the long, simple, worn and still good for a few more of hard service.

Close at hand stands a bookcase made abroad for Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy. Rather ornately carved, it seems quite unlike Lincoln's home bookcase, which also is on display here. It is a chair of the plain pieces common in the day and now sought after. But that there was comfort and elegance of a quiet nature in the Lincoln household may be at least partly proved by the handsome mahogany and hickory chair that Lincoln used.

Robert T. Lincoln, the martyred President's only living son, pays the Chicago Historical Society a visit from time to time. He has pronounced the best likeness of his father's little brown portrait that has recently come into possession of the society and is hanging there for the first time. The work of the artist, Robert T. Lincoln, is listening to General Sherman tell of his march to the sea. The painting is by C. P. A. Healy, one of the noted artists of the day. Robert T. Lincoln has had a copy of his father's figure made for his home in Washington.

For years and years Mr. Gunther worked with unflinching energy until he had run himself into the ground. Mr. Melville, librarian of the Chicago Historical Society, terms the most remarkable private collection in the country relating to American history.

After several private try-outs, they announced a public trial of a balloon on June 5, 1783, and many spectators gathered to see this sphere, 105 feet in circumference, which the inventors inflated with the hot air from burning straw, rise high in the air and float off for about one and a half miles. The brothers believed for quite a while that they had hit upon some peculiar way of flying, but they had not. The balloon, which had been inflated with hot air, had not risen until later that their wonder had risen only because of the lightness of heated air. But they made the balloon a reality.

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LOST—Diamond bar pin, from West 77th

to 104th st., and Riverside Drive, late Sunday night, liberal reward, Mr. Brazel, 317 Riverside Drive, Academy 4735.

LOST—Opera glasses in red bag, lost in

Plymouth Theatre, Thursday, January 20, 1921, for sentiment; reward. Telephone Lenox 4182.

LOST—Locket picture frame, diamonds,

sapphires; 107th st., Broadway, near East 124th, Academy 1277.

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